

Summary of Meeting
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team
September 9, 1998

Key Discussion Items:

- There was continued discussion of bringing the Suisun Marsh levees into the CALFED levee program.
- The scope of Special Projects was discussed.
- There was a status report on subsidence.
- There was an update on cost estimates for levee improvements.
- There was a status report on a Category III sediment toxicity study.

Action Items:

- A one-page summarization handout was distributed on the Suisun Marsh levees issue although a more extensive write-up will eventually be put into the CALFED programmatic EIR/EIS. The issue of bringing the Suisun Marsh levees into the CALFED levee program continues to remain unresolved.
- A figure of \$360 million over 30 years was suggested for the Special Projects phase. It was noted that Special Projects are for levee improvements that have statewide benefits such as water quality and infrastructure although it was discussed that "attached habitat" needs to be included in the Special Projects description. The Environmental Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) appears to relate to Special projects and could bring costs down if some proposed improvements could be picked up under the ERPP.
- The subsidence sub-team backed off a number for the Zone of Influence in the write-up but the maps show a zone of 500 feet. It was discussed that the Zone of Influence was site specific and members of the sub-team don't feel comfortable with using a blanket number. The "target areas" maps needed to be improved. There was discussion that "depths of peat" maps should not be extrapolated into "target areas" maps.
- Appendix B of the Delta Long-Term Levee Protection Plan Special Technical Review Draft report dated September of 1998 contains the latest cost estimates. The numbers update other numbers which were in the meeting packet transmittal. Base Level improvements for Delta levees range from a low estimate of \$0.6 billion to a high estimate of \$1.3 billion. Negotiation costs for Bethel Island were discussed and it was thought the high estimate in the table could include relocation costs and not just negotiations.
- A Category III sediment toxicity study proposal received a \$500,000 grant as part of a Regional Dredge Material Management Plan (RDMMP). The study will review existing material and try and find out what's missing.
- The next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team will be on October 27, 1998 from 9-12 at the Resources Building.

Draft Meeting Notes
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team
September 9, 1998 at 9:00 am in room 1142 of the Resources Building

Attendance List:

Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission
Bill Betchart, private consultant
Pat Brantley, Fish and Game
Robert Clark, CCVFCA
Rob Cooke, CALFED (chair)
Gil Cosio, Murray Burns and Kienlen
Terry Erlewine, State Water Contractors
Paul Forsberg, Fish and Game
Jason Holley, Fish and Game
Chuck Howard, US Bureau of Reclamation
Kenneth King, private consultant
Gwen Knittweis, CALFED
Ulrich Luscher, Woodward-Clyde Consulting Engineers
Chris Neudeck, KSN Engineering
Michael Norris, DWR Central District (minutes)
Lynn O'Leary, Corps of Engineers / CALFED
Michael Ramsbotham, Corps of Engineers / CALFED
Frank Wernette, Fish and Game
Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency

Rob Cooke convened the meeting. The meeting minutes from 7-22-98 CALFED Levee and Channel meeting were reviewed and approved by the group with one comment by Tom Zuckerman on the demonstration project on Rindge Tract. The minutes stated the "practice was not as well received by the farmers as it could have been". According to Tom, it was the State Water Contractors who had second feelings about the project.

There was continued discussion of bringing the Suisun Marsh levees into the CALFED levee program. A one-page summarization handout was distributed although a more extensive write-up will eventually be put into the CALFED programmatic EIR/EIS. Tom noted one recommendation is to return a portion of the marsh to tidal wetlands. Chris Neudeck thought that cost estimates for the marsh area would be of a unique nature because not much work has been done in those areas in the past. Pat Brantley has a discussion paper on the Suisun marsh levees issue written by DFG staff. It was agreed that the report would be sent with the next meeting packet. Chuck Howard had one question on a modeling issue related to the Suisun marsh. Also, he needed clarification on what is meant by "feasibility level cost estimates". Rob Cooke agreed a more appropriate term might be "reconnaissance level cost estimates".

The next topic on the agenda was the scope of Special Projects. Rob has suggested \$360 million

over 30 years and is awaiting feedback. Rob feels Special Projects are for levee improvements that have statewide benefits such as water quality and infrastructure. However, Chris Neudeck stated that "attached habitat" needs to be included in Special Projects description in addition to statewide issues. Tom Zuckerman wondered how the Environmental Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) might relate to proposed Special projects. If ERPP could pick up many of the things on the Special Projects wishlist, then costs could come down.

Chris noted the seismicity issue hasn't been settled yet for Special Projects. Rob said one component of Special Projects could be to reduce fragility.

There was discussion by Bill Betchart about the different pots of monies for the Subventions and Special Projects programs. There was discussion that the new concept has it that there is one large pot of money with Special Projects being an overlay.

Tom noted ERPP improvements won't just be on levees but will include such things as berms, flooded islands, setbacks, etc.

Paul Forsberg noted it might be difficult to determine what Special Projects will cost until we determine the marriage between ERPP and AB360.

Bill Betchart thought the estimate for Special Projects could come down based on what ERPP contributes but it could also go up based on the seismicity issue. Ulrich Luscher said we should just state our assumptions as far as another program contributing a certain percentage to an upgrade and then go on from there with the cost estimate issue.

The next item on the agenda was a status report on subsidence. Lynn O'Leary said the sub-team backed off a number for the Zone of Influence in the write-up but the maps show a zone of 500 feet. Lynn thought the Zone of Influence was site specific and she doesn't feel comfortable with using a blanket number. Chris Nuedeck thought the "target areas" maps needed to be improved. Chris didn't think "depths of peat" maps should be extrapolated into "target areas" maps. Rob said the subsidence sub-team would continue to refine their product and will meet again on 9-14-98 at 1:30 pm.

The next item on the agenda was a status report on cost estimates. Gil Cosio discussed the tables in Appendix B of the Delta Long-Term Levee Protection Plan Special Technical Review Draft report dated September of 1998. The numbers update other numbers which were in the meeting packet transmittal. Base Level improvements for Delta levees range from a low estimate of \$0.6 billion to a high estimate of \$1.3 billion. Gil said the fill estimates for quantity are for up to 250 percent in some cases because of the compaction that will occur when heavy equipment is driven on top of the levees. Also, there is additional fill for ramps. Every road is at least a gravel road and county roads are gravel with a chip seal. Margit Aramburu discussed urban versus ag standards for levees and Gil said the numbers are for ag standards except for seepage control. Tom Zuckerman asked about "negotiation costs" for Bethel Island. It was thought the high estimate could include relocation costs and not just negotiations. Chris said he would check on

that. It was suggested there be a separate column in the table for relocations. Michael Ramsbotham finished the discussion on the cost estimate issue by breaking down various sub-costs that make up the total costs shown in the report.

The next item on the agenda was a status report on a Category III sediment toxicity study proposal. Gwen Knittweis discussed that a \$500,000 grant has been allotted for the toxicity study as part of a Regional Dredge Material Management Plan (RDMMP). The study will review existing material and try and find out what's missing. According to Gwen, CALFED is considering putting someone on board who will prepare Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) permits for dredging.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of "other issues". It was reported that the Agency Review Team (ART) had completed their task but Bill Betchart continued to wonder about emergency response and seismic issues. Rob said it's our job to tell CALFED Management what the seismic risk is and then they will decide what to do about it. Bill thought it was essential to have an isolated facility as part of a CALFED alternative because there's not enough information on seismic issues to justify deleting that alternative. Pat Brantley discussed permit coordination issues. Pat said the issue has been assigned to Rod Mead and Peter Keel for preparation of a framework for biological assessment for Category III projects. Gil asked if the permit coordination team had taken another look at the "work windows" issue in light of a problem he was aware of where it took too long for the agencies to conclude that the data didn't exist and valuable time for working on the project was lost.

Rob scheduled the next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team for Tuesday October 27, 1998 from 9-12.

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